

1888.

The year 1888 promises to be a year of splendid political developments, one and all redounding to the glory and triumph of a

UNITED DEMOCRACY.

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THE SUN,

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Address THE SUN, New York.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1888.

Mr. Blaine.

The following observation of the Philadelphia News, a journal very friendly to Mr. JAMES G. BLAINE, merits notice rather on account of its truth than by reason of its startling novelty:

"The great majority of Minnesota Republicans favor Mr. BLAIRE, according to Tan Sux. If The Sun had exmajority of Republicans in the country favor BLAINE.

That, we say, is probably true. According to present indications the Republicans who lesire the nomination of Mr. BLAINE are not only more numerous than the supporters of any other candidate, but they are more numerous than the supporters of all the other Republican candidates together.

If this were the only consideration, the preliminary politics of a Presidential canwass would be as simple and easy as rolling off a log.

But because a majority of the Republicans in the country are supposed to favor BLAINE, it does not necessarily follow that Mr. BLAIRE will be nominated, or that it would be good politics for the Republican party to minate him.

The campaign does not end with the Concention. The main business is the election the candidate afterward; and candidates re nominated, or should be nominated, with

Eighty Millions a Year.

The annual pension appropriation just reted to the House contemplates a much arger expenditure for that purpose than has yet been made in any year. It reaches \$80,-75,500; and it is based upon obligations dready incurred. This amount is needed for current routine payments, taking no account of possible increases of expenditure authorised by the Fiftieth Congress.

The present enormous burden of pension expenditures is mainly the work of the last on years. In 1878 the disbursements were, in round numbers, \$27,000,000. They had gradually fallen to that point from a maximum of between \$38,000,000 and \$34,000,000, reached about seven years earlier; and this decline was in accordance with the natural law of decrease from the deaths of veterans and other causes. The war had, in 1878, been ided more than a dozen years; and \$27,000,000 then seemed a liberal annual amount to be paying for pensions, with the prospect of a steady diminution. But in the last few months of the HAYES Adminstration the Arrears act was passed by Congreen and signed; and from that moment to the present there has been a constant addition of enormously costly measures to the body of pension legislation. During the year 1879 the disbursements jumped to about \$84,000,000: in 1881 they had reached \$50,000 year 1885 saw them above \$65,000,000; and now Commissioner BLACK says that \$80,000,poo are needed to meet current payments

during the next fiscal year. Where all this will end no one can pretend say, because no pension project is too atravagant to insure its defeat. The presint increase is largely traceable to two measures of the Forty-ninth Congress, one which pensioned soldiers and sailors of the Mexican war for service only, while the ther added fifty per cent. to the rate paid o a class that included more than a adred thousand pensioners. These two icts are continuous in their operation, and all for a great annual increase in the approdations. There are other propositions of the same sort before the Fiftieth Conroutine appropriation to \$90,000,000, and others to \$190,000,000 a year.

Our Big Friend in the Sky.

20

The phenomenally cold weather of which have just had a taste, and which has an attended by such frightful circumces of suffering and disaster in the Northwest, is well calculated to impress the able to exist upon this globe of ours for a single week. When the continent has been buried for many weeks in snow, and ley blasts from the Frigid Zone come to assist of human endurance, it is to the sun alone that we can look for rescue from the frost. evident to those railroad passengers in Dakota who, huddling together in a single ear, hugging the stove, and covering thempelves as best they could with garments, blankets, mail bags, and whatever would serve to keep in the heat of the body, looked forward despairingly to the return of the sunshine. Mother Earth had no warmth in her bosom for them, and two children in the party actually froze to death. In summer the sun makes those same plains, over which they passed with terror and great suffering. pleasant with grass and flowers; and yet, so parrow is the margin of heat supplied to the earth, that a few months later, when the globe has rolled its northern face slightly sway from the sun, man must fight a battle or his life with the encroaching frost.

We get a very striking idea of the actual libration which we occupy if we make for brange, blazing with intense heat and light, present the sun. Then a little particle, bout one-fortieth of an inch in diameter-a pin's head-will represent the earth. Let it lost at a distance of twenty-six or twentyeven feet from the miniature sun and slowly volve around it. Suppose all the surroundng space to be airless and terrifically cold, as diar space is, and we have before us se actual condition of things in the solar | the nature and reason of things, no more

rays of the neighboring sun, would quickly freeze to death. It turns all its sides in rotation toward the sun and gets them warmed. It preserves a little heat in its atmosphere and by the aid of the vapor that the sun raises from its oceans, and yet it is half the time shivering at the touch of frosty space. First one hemisphere and then the other is turned to the warming blaze of the solar hearth, and the side that is turned away must temporarily suffer for the comfort that the other side enjoys. If the earth didn't turn on its axis it would be baked on one side and frozen on the other. It is engaged in a constant effort to keep warm.

And what if the sun should withdraw its rays? What if the fuel of the solar furnace should run low? What if gravitation and atomic motion should go on strike? Let the astronomers torment their imagination with such things. While the sun snines we prefer to think of it as never growing dim. And next summer people will be wondering why the deuce it is so hot.

Manning and Randall.

Whatever may have been the real nature of the contest over the Chairman of the Democratic State Committee in Pennsylvania, there is no question that the free Weekly - - - - - - - 1 00 trade journals regard the result with poculiar satisfaction. Whether the Administration was on one side or not, SAM RANDALL was, and they rejoice at the defeat of the great protectionist Democrat, whatever it amounted to.

But what of the future? Without disussing the services of other eminent members of the Democracy, it can be said briefly that the two men to whom of all others the fact is due that GROVER CLEVELAND is in the White House were DANIEL MANNING and SAMUEL J. RANDALL. Without MAN-NING, Mr. CLEVELAND could not have been nominated; and without RANDALL be could not have been elected. It was this statesman, the champion of protection in the session of 1884 against the assaults of the free trade leaders, who alone of Democratic leaders in other States was sent for to uphold the cause of Democracy in the pivotal State of New York, and who with great difficulty was successful.

DANIEL MANNING is now dead. His great ability as a political organizer cannot be relied on to assist Mr. CLEVELAND in a second struggle for the nomination. Manning is gone, but there are other forces in the hands of the Administration which it did not possess in 1884, and which may be reckoned on as of immense effectiveness when the time comes to apply them. The renomination of Mr. CLEVELAND may be accomplished with Mr. Manning left out, but the situation as regards the election can ass will be the same in 1888 as it was in 1884. If the powerful protection sentiment in New York State is to be assalled, and if the issue is to be so made up that it cannot again animate the voters who are needed on the side of the Democracy, then the result next fall will be from the beginning involved in most serious doubt, and finally it may be the reverse of

what it was four years ago. It seemed a very simple performance for the Hon, WILLIAM L. SCOTT in Pennsylvania last week, when he obtained control of the majority in the State Committee, to propose resolution advocating a certain revenue policy. It was carried without difficulty naturally, and to the minds of Mr. Scott's followers his success effectually removed the suspicion aroused in a previous State Convention that that gentleman was lacking in political firmness. In a State like Pennsylvania, where the Republican majority is between 50,000 and 100,000, the Democratic platform is a matter of comparative indifference: but when the contest is transferred to the broader field of the Empire State, the platform becomes of the highest moment, and what might appear acceptable to a majority of Pennsylvania Democrats when led by Mr. Scott may easily be rejected by a majority of New York's million and more of

voters of all parties. The great mistake of the free traders grows out of the fact that Mr. RANDALL has so long defended the principle of protection on the Democratic side that they have come to regard him as a personal enemy, while in 800; by 1883 they were over \$60,000,000; the reality he is the representative of a sentiment that is overwhelming in the States that decide Federal elections.

Marriage Reform in Kentucky.

Many great reforms come from Kentucky, and so there will be no surprise at the bill offered in the Kentucky Legislature on Thursday defining what Kentuckians may not marry. This measure, which is now wilting beneath the intellects of the Judiclary Committee, prohibits and makes void 'all marriages with an idiot, lunatic, paralytic, pauper, vagrant, tramp, drunkard, gambler, felon, feeble-minded person, or any one rendered physically helpless and unfit for the marriage relation, any person with violent temper, or who has for one year previous been a frequenter of any immoral nouse, or has been divorced for such causes."

The intention of this bill is excellent, and certainly no believer in the doctrine of heredity would object to the prohibition of mariage wherefrom one or both parties are liable to transmit diseased mental, moral, or physical characteristics. And yet by the principle of reversion the children of such marriages might escape the immediate penalty of their parentage and repeat all or some fact that, but for outside aid, coming to us of the valuable, same, honest, and healthy but of the depths of space, we should be un- qualities which had lapsed for generations. The lines of mental, moral, and even physical inheritance are not yet so distinctly and finally traced that Legislatures can safely frame bills in accordance with them. in chilling the atmosphere below the point | It is said that the late Mr. DUGDALE, the author of that interesting study on the JURES family of criminals, was not entirely certain This must have seemed overwhelmingly of his conclusions; and no careful observer would agree that criminals are in the ma-

jority of cases the children of criminals. But the reformer whose bill the Judiciary Committee of the Kentucky Legislature is considering, evidently has given more attention to the promotion of happy marriages than to the problem of heredity. this score his bill has difficulties. What, for instance, could be a more delicate question than to determine that any given man is a gambler? Is a man who habitually bets on horse races or tempts fortune at the Stock Exchange a gambler? Hundreds of men who have their principal source of income from other sources have their principal source of deficit and sitting up o' nights from the great American game of poker. Are these to be considered gamblers and rendered incapable of marriage? Probably the Kentucky legislator has no such intensurselves a microcosmic picture of the sun | tion, for in Kentucky the great American and earth. Let a flery globe as large as an game is, if we may use the words without offence, a protected industry. And yet how many happy homes have been draped in woe and violent conversation because of husere speck of dust, smaller than the smallest | bands too fond of cutting night into chips and of lingering in the antechamber of the dawn. Besides, why may not a gambler be a good husband? Gambling is a vice to be put down by laws against gambling, not by laws against the marriage of gamblers. And to the larger philosophic mind there is, in

gambler than that of the wretch who says 'in our midst." In fact, there is less. The latter sins against light, and purposelessly, whereas the gambler may have no other means of support than his profession.

Of the minor flaws in the bill it is perhaps superfluous to speak. There are no Mugwumps in Kentucky now, and probably there never will be, so that the prohibition of the marriage of feeble-minded persons need not be seriously considered. But why should marriage with "any person with violent temper" be tabooed? Did any woman ever have a more violent temper than SARAH JENNINGS, first Duchess of MARLBOROUGH? And yet she ruled her husband and her house successfully, and handsome Jack CHURCHILL (that was) lived in the love and the awe of her, and she helped make him. And even if a person with a violent temper ought to be disqualified from marriage, ought a person divorced for that cause to be disqualified from a second or third marriage? He or she meanwhile may have reformed.

This Kentucky bill means well, but it is premature.

The Matter With Shakespeare.

It has been suspected by various wiseacres recent years that Master William SHAKESPEARE was not the man or the writer he ought to have been. The opinions of the anti-Shakespeareans differ in details, but substantially they agree as to his general imperfections. There were no Shakespeake societies in his day to write him up, and he has suffered from neglect or his own modsty. More is known of Mr. Arlo Bates or Mr. ROBERT GRANT, those major planets of the Boston literary skies, than of Mr. SHAKESPEARE. Nobody would be resh ough to assert that ARLO BATES is the Marquis of SALISBURY or that ROBERT GRANT IS Mr. GLADSTONE, yet the Hon. IG-NISPATUUS DONNELLY, the Gopher cryptogramist, finds gudgeons who believe that SHARESPEARE Was only the putative father of the comedies, tragedies, and histories ascribed to him. Something or other must have been the matter with SHAKESPEARE or he would have asserted himself more strongly. A gentleman from the school of the prophets at Concord, Middlesex county, Mass., has found out what the matter with SHAKESPEARE WAS.

WILLIAM meant well, but he didn't know. Mr. FRANCIS B. SANBORN, the friend of JOHN RROWN and Man and the Eleusinian acroamatical right bower of the Concord Summer School of Philosophy, spoke a piece before the GOETRE Society of this town last Wednesday night, and here is one of his criticisms of the Swan of Avon:

"Wise as SHARKSPRARE was, he has the air sometime

In other words, Mr. SHAKESPEARE was, in Mr. Sanborn's opinion, another "itspired idiot." Hundreds and hundreds of passages in which the deep-revolving wisdom of commentators and the intuitive revelation of Concord communers with the Ego and the Nous have found all sorts of Orphic meanings and mysterious insights, meant to the simple mind of WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE only what the obvious meaning of the words is. He was not wholly sacred rates. He could not foresee the swarms of commentators that would build their nests in his works, or the critic owls that would glare at him, or the Dox-NELLY buzzards that would make their feast upon him. He was a plain Jacksonian Democrat sort of man, not particularly proud because he was wise, and not pretending to

He has been duly punished for his modesty. According to DONNELLY, he was only a manipulator of BACON. According to SAN-BORN, he didn't know as much as he might have known. We have semetimes thought that if SHAKESPEARE could only have bud Concord philosophy he might have written works that Massachusetts would not willing-

The Woolly Shirt.

This remark of our esteemed contemporary, the Utica Observer, excites reflection: lating the sheep raisers indicates that the shirt they will wave this year will be woolly if not bloody."

The power of the protectionist Democrats in the House of Representatives is probably too great to permit an assault upon the wool interest which would justify the elevation by the Republicans of a standard that could

properly be called the woolly shirt. But if the chance should be given to the Republicans to raise this woolly shirt, then beyond question it will be the banner of vie ory. It would stand for the banner of protection, and the majority that would rally to its support would be too great to justify any prolonged consideration of the chances of

The Republicans can have all the fun that they want with the bloody shirt, but if they should once be allowed to raise the woollen lag, the old Republican rascals who have at last been bounced from the Federal offices would come back with a rush.

Judging from the petitions that pour into Congress, one of the subjects mearest to the hearts of the American people must be that of securing an increase in the compensation of fourth-class Postmasters. The prayers for this purpose come by hundreds from every part of the country. They come from Golden agle, Body Camp, Well Water, Polycarp, Nicanor, Rasselns, Parnassus, Slab Hollow, Roaring River, Ganges, Lysipons, Jump, Shade, Joe. John. Dearth. Mosk. Slab, Gum Spring. Rock Fish, Miser, Good Intent. Moreoro, Negrofoot, Heliotrope, French Hay, and Double Horn. The communities in which fourth-class Postmasters do their work evidently stand by them, and Congressmen get much free information about their country and its people.

We must rebuke the Atlanta Constitution for calling our senior Senator "Father METHU-SELAH EVARTS." This implies that Mr. EVARTS s a statesman of great antiquity. Such is not the fact. Mr. Evants was born in February. 1816, and consequently is not yet even seventytwo. The Constitution has somehow confounded Mr. Evants's age with that of the silk hat he habitually wears.

Whether we consider Chicago as a literary centre in an esoteric or an exoteric way, it is qually impressive, equally boundless in augcostion, equally subtle and auspleious, Its DANTE school is now admitted to have been phonomenal; the more so because, as stated with such beautiful simplicity in the communication which we print in another column, it was chiefly conducted by a man who never tudied the language in which DANTE wrote. Success to the Chicago Aristotle school!

The departure of the Juniata from Honolutu for Japan and of the Mobican for Samoa is a practical refutation of the recent rumor that another political revolution is expected in the Hawaiian islands. Of the vessels of the navy that had hurriedly gathered at Honolulu. the Vandalia alone remains, the Adams having some months ago gone to Apia. It would necessary, and to reenforce them by the Iro quois and Thetis from San Francisco, and the Alert from Callao. But all the indications are that KALAKAUA accepts the theory that revolutions do not go backward. Judge JONATHAN m. The little earth, but for the kindly justice in prohibiting the marriage of a Averns, who has just been made Minister of

Foreign Affairs, was the candidate whose ap pointment in place of Goprany Brown, the resigning member, the Reform Cabinet demanded of the King.

Experience shows that it is sometimes easier to procure the passage of a bill devoting thirty or forty millions in gratuities to those who have no claim on the Government than one of thirteen or fourteen thousand dolinrs for a measure appealing strongly to the sense of justice. In reporting favorably a bill to pay \$703.75 to each of the enlisted men of the Lady Franklin Bay expedition, as the equivalent of commutations of quarters, fuel, and extra duty pay to which they would have been entitled had they remained at home, the Senate Committee on Military Affairs offers this com-

"Pourteen of the nineteen persons named in this bill to dead, and at the rate of progress which their brayer or relief has inside, all may be deceased ere action is alen. The fumilies of those who have died, with one teepthon, are in necessitions circumstances. That has any been denied to those men which men in similar rades in the army receive at home."

Ever since the ill-fated expedition set out, ongress has been put to expense about it, and it will perhaps be a long time before the expense ends, as is customary with foolish Arctic ventures. But the particular case put by the Senate committee seems to deserve prompt consideration.

The Massachusetts Republicans have tardily decided to redeem their pledge to the friends of prohibition who stuck by the grand and mendacious old party. A resolution providing for the submission to the people of a robibitory amendment has passed the State Senate, and has been accepted by a caucus of the Republicans of the House.

The question, therefore, of putting prohibition in the State Constitution will at last go to the voters of Massachusetts. Then the temperance people will obtain further information as to how much the sweet words and soft promises of the Republican leaders are worth.

At the Westminster Acuarium, Friday night. Mr. CHARLES MITCHELL told the audience that Mr. LAWBENCE SULLIVAN man who had never "done any good for the profession." Yet whose earnings in the slugging profession exceed Mr. SULLIVAN'S? Who has done more to bring it up from a sixpence to a shilling basis? It must be admitted, bowever, that to pugilists like Mr. MITCHELL the Boston Hand of Fate might do permanent harm n case of collision.

We notice with delight that at the eighth annual convention of the Custom Tailors' Asociation, which was held with much pleasure and profit at Chicago last week, Mr. John O'NEILL, one of the most asthetic and artistic of the trousers cutters of the West, expressed himself as warmly in favor of knee breeches, and even foretold their final triumph as a part of the dress of men "for dress occasions." Thus is the too often impracticable union and communion of the Real and the Ideal accomplished beyond cavil and beyond reproach.

Mr. O'NEILL well and worthily represents the

Real. The Ideal is that eminent Western maker and fitter. Mr. EUGENE FIELD, who has or years devoted himself and no mean Muse to the heroic effort to make knee breeches as popular as his songs. We may be guilty of forestalling, yet he surely will forgive us for quoting from his soon-to-be published "Madrigals of Michigan Avenue" these lines:

Helotofo like a Valkyr I sing. To the blue coated beavens my heels I fling: antique sariorial customs I say aristo, Var In spate of "pant"-clad mockers, I will don my unloker

The husband of the Princess Beatrice has allen off his horse and contused himself, HARRY BATTENBERG IS a young man who deerves much more praise than he gets. He is puinstaking and persevering. He tries to kill birds and misses them. He tries to ride to the number lower legs to the mists and winds of the Highlands, all to pleasure her Majesty and the Princers. Brother BATTENBERG must be well easoned, and can always get a job cutting it a

the Hudson or running a milk east. formed a Latin and Greek Society. Such a the advantages of a thorough initiation into | restraigscence of the higher education is to be deplored. In view of the completeness with which the Yale athletes conquered their Harverf rivals last year, the Cambridge freshmen should live in the gymnasium and let the

cinssies alone. CHICAGO CULTURE UNDAUNTED.

It Intends to Have an Aristotle School

To the Editor of The Sun-Say Your omments upon the recent Dante. School in this city are in a spirit born of the scoffs with which every advance of culture in the West is retarded by lecal gibers whose poor wit is incapable of selecting objects that properly elong in the category of humer.

Permit us to protest against this misrepresentation. We never had any question in the School about the pro-nunciation of the name of the great Italian poet. The idea of the School was engendered in the minds of a few studious women whose modest desires led them to study the poet first in quiet with a teacher whose pretensions can be judged from the fact that he does not know a word of Italian. When it was resolved to make the School public, we procured the services of two eminent Dantisia Dr. Harris and Prof. Davidson, both of the Concord school of Philosophy. The lectures were attended both day and evening by serious men and women, and there was a grave delight and profound joy in the entire

would do imif as well in such pursuits: especially in hul iday week, and with weather that Dante never dreamed of even in the frozen cycles of the Inferms. We intend to have an Aristotle School next. Dante prepared us for Aristotle. We had no countenance from the press, except from the Chicago Tribune, and even its glances were suspected to contain a twinkle of fun he-hind a veil of crudition and sympathy. But we shall go

Cuicago, Jan. 20. Contests of the Curiers.

West and East alike the past week has been a famous one for sports on the ice. Van Cortlandt Lake especially has been the scene of nightly buttles in shifting the stone. The annual bouspiel for the Gordon medal was finely fought out there by the Mosholn, Al-bany, Yenkers, St. Andrews, American, Utlea, Caledonian, Thistle, New York, Empire City, and Manhatta: Clubs, Americans holding their own with Scotchmen, and gray-haired veterans proving themselves still as stalwart and skilful as many younger enthusinats. If the ice was not faultiessly clear as at some previous c tests, owing to recent snows, and if the wind was some-times sharp enough even to vary a trifle the course of the heavy polished stones in their carefully nimed side toward the tee, these obstacles gave a butter scope for science as well as for luck. It was another triumph for American curling that the Mosholu Bink of American players, headed by young Van Cortlandt, doubtless the youngest skip in the country, carried off the Gordon nedal for the year, while the Albany Eink gave the winners a close contest. Besides this famous match there have been others for local medals, and so on. Meanwhile at Portage, Wisconsin, the great centre of

curling at the Northwest, the annual meeting has taken place, lasting several days. This resulted in the Poysette Rink winning the Morgan medal, the Cambria Bink the Dalrymple medal, and one of the Portage rinks the Mitchell medal. In the annual match between Chicago and Milwaukee against Columbia county, Wis-consin, and the Sorthwest the twelve rinks of the former were heaten by those of the fatter, two St. Paul

rinks aiding the curiers of Columbia county, who this year carried all before them. Curling now has a larger body of devotees than ever before in this country, the National Association, includ ing thirty-three clubs several of which can bring for-ward six or eight good rinks. Spectators, too, have be-come skilled in quickly judging whether a stone sent down the long strip of ice will cross the hog score or not or will rest within outer or inner circle, and what dam age or benefit it is likely to do.

Because he Likes Them. From the Boston Herald.

Is civilization a failure, or why does Senator discock of the imperial State of New York eat apples in the United States Senate chamber ?

In the Gleaming. From Harper's Bugar.

Chicago Lady (to busband)—"My dear, did you think to order a ton of coal to day!"
Husband—"Yes."
Husband—"Yes: and" (peering out of the window)
"there is a truck backing up to the door now, but it's
too dark to see whether it has the coal or the shoes."

THE NATY IN CONGRESS.

Five New Composite Vessels Called For-Many Changes Suggested in the Personnel. WASHINGTON, Jan. 22,-The training service is likely at last to get new vessels for its needs. A bill appropriating \$1,125,000 for three composite bark-rigged steam vessels has been introduced into the House. One of them is to be stationed on the Pacific coast, for the use of apprentices at Mare Island, and accordingly is be built on that coast if a contract can be se cured at a fair cost. The limit for each vessel, making at least 13 knots an hour, and rigged, armed, and provided with salls, is \$375,000. A second bill calls for two more composite vessels, not exceeding 1,000 tons displacement each, which are to be loaned to the cities of New York and Philadelphia for use as nautical

canch, which are to be loaned to the cities of New York and Philadelphia for use as nautical school ships.

Secretary Whitney has apparently determined not to press again the Herbert bill for the reorganization of the bureaus in his department, perhaps thinking that he can secure all needed alterations through the ordinary powers conferred on him by statute. However, many measures have been introduced, proposing changes in the bureaus, in the staff, and in the line. Senator Cameron's bill details a naval officer to every bureau as assistant to the chief, to periorn the latter's duties during absence or liness, or in case of death or resignation until a successor is appointed. Mr. Mckinney has an elaborate measure of eight sections, one of which provides an Assistant Secretary of the Navy at \$5,000 a year, to be appointed from civil life by the President with the gensent of the Senate. Another section gives the Commandant of the Marine Corps the rank and pay of a Brigadier General, while a third provides for the medical examination of all naval officers who have not passed one within a specified period, the President being authorized to retire such as fall to pass. But the most important part of this bill is its proposed reduction of the active list, both in line and staff, to a specified number for each grade. Thus the Rear Admirals, who now number seven, are to be reduced to five; the thirreen Commadores to ten; the forty-live Captains to forty-two, and so on through the list. The reduction, however, does not affect some grades, and is generally slight, except in the case of the eneigns, who come down from about 180 to 100; but as the grade above. the list. The reduction, however, does not affect some grades, and is generally slight, except in the case of the ensigns, who come down from about 180 to 100; but as the grade above, that of unior Licatemants, is increased from 75 to 125, this would give many promotions. These proposed reductions are to be effected by promoting to only half of the vacancles that may occur until the fixed number is reached.

Many other changes are made in this bill, including methods of examination for promotion and the assignment of cadets at the Naval Academy to their respective branches of the service at the end of the fourth neademic vear. But the purpose sought in this last provision seems to be better secured by bills limited to that specific purpose. Mr. Wise provides for the selection of the required number of cadets at the ond of the second year of the course and their special clucation thereafter, the cadets not then needed for such vacantes being discharged with three months' pay. This latter bill would reduce the academic course to four years, in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy and others. Mr. McKinney's bill, on the other hand, goes over so much ground, takes in so many subjects, and antagonizes so many interests that it seems hardly likely to pass in its present shape.

The measures suggested for the retirement of naval officers are worth notice. Mr. Harmer's bill authorizes the retirement, upon his own application, of any commissioned officer of the navy, below the relative rank of Lieutonant-Commander, belonging to a grade whose numbers exceed the number fixed by the act of 1882, or who has served twenty years without promotion, provided such officer has reached the ago of 48, and has been in the naval service twenty-five years. Mr. Whithorne's bill allows the retiring, upon his own application, of any officer of the navy promoted for eminent conduct in battle or heroism, under the act of Jan. 24, 1865, although it would seem that these are the very officers who ought to be retained as long as possible in active service. One measure directs that no officer below certain specified grades shall be promoted until he has had at least two years of sea service in the grade already held.

With the exception of the composite vessels already specken of, and one harbor defence vessel, no bills appear to have been introduced thus far for new construction. In due time, however, such proposals will probably be made, since Secretary Whitney has asked for authority to build two more armored vessels and three additional fast cruisers, while Chief Censtructor Wilson has shown that in six years only four of the present wooden cruising ships will remain serviceable. shape.
The measures suggested for the retirement

A Question of Accuracy. From the Philadelphia Press.

Congressman Cox has been given the credit recently of saving a Vish Commissioner's sal-ary bill by the timely quoting of a verse from an old hymn. As he recited it, it ran thus:

It memory serves us rightir, Mr. Cox nods a tile in his quotation. There is certainly a cree in an old revival hymn which was sung in ow England in Whitheld's time which reads

Ye monaters of the bring deep Voor Maker's project about. Up from the deep we collings peep and way your tails about.

The rhyme is certainly smoother, and besides, it is much more natural to picture codlings, or little cods, as peculing up from the "sands."

Why Vilas was Twice Sworn In.

The swearing in of Don Manuel Dickinson by Judge Lawrenson the other day recalls the annusing fact that Gen. Vilas was sworn in twice as Postmaster-General. Vilas somehow had never heard of the traditian making Judge Lawrenson the only man to administer the outh to the new head of the department. So he arranged to have his iriend, Judge Stephen J. Field of the Supreme bench do the work. The latter did it, but it completely undid Lawrenson. who is a \$1,000 clerk in the office. It came to Vilas's cars; he made all sorts of apologies, and finally took the oath a second time from the functionary who had offered the Bible for kissing to twenty-three men before.

Was Going to Take Snow Balls to Cuba. From the Philadelphia Press

From the Philadelphia Press.

Bordentown, Jan. 19.—A student at the military institute named Armstrong, from Cuba, is ill with pneumonia, which he contracted during the first anow storm. This is his first winter in the North and the falling snow excited his curiosity. He spent considerable time outdoors, and rolled six snow balls and placed them in his trunk, intending to take them home with him next vacation. When he found a pool of weter in his trunk he mournfully exclaimed: "My feather balls are all gone."

Postering a New Jersey Industry. From the Philadelphia Times.

City Solicitor Morgan of Camden has de cided that the City Clerk is not justified in giv-ing out the official record of marriages for pub-lication. This decision was rendered owing to numerous complaints from Camdon divines and other persons interested that a Philadel-phia newspaper was publishing each marriage

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: In your one of to day's date is an article on the public schools; it is well written, and should be carefully read and pon dered over by every well disposed citizen in this city. I extract last clause of article, namely: "More than all too, the only education for which the whole people can properly be taxed is the simple, ele-mentary education which is requisite for every child, and essential to the well being of a State governed by universal suffrage, and, therefore, in danger from the universal suffrage, and, therefore, in danger from the illiteracy of its criticals. The fractic in the above extract is mine, and I propound the following questions: How many boys are there in the Now York College, at the city's expense, whose parents can well afford to put for their higher education? How many piris are there at present in the Normal School who are elucated to a high degree at the city's expense, and have in injurious or becoming mere school teachers: What prepare he has a Normal School graduate over a pinul in any city bubble school. If said injuly passes favorably before the City Superintendent, asper, in her sambifion to become a teacher in one of the primary schools. It is also interest to the city superintendent of the primary schools. It is also interest to the primary schools should be problem; in the school indice, when their actual duffers in instructing the young consists of A B U and A B, all.

From the Guidha World.

Harper's Monthly for February made its an-

An object six feet high cannot be seen at a distance of ten miles owing to the curvature of the earth, which is said to he seven includes to the nile. Why it is that the tucker. Saut the door cannot be seen at a distance of ten inches has never been explained.

pearance on Saturday in a number of 104 pages, present ng a great coutrast to its original appearance thirtyeight years ago. In every other respect the contrast is equally noteworthy, except that Mr. Curtis's delightful essys are the same as of old in the charm of their style, though we fancy there is an added benignity and geni ality of thought and sentiment. The feature of the num ber is a little sketch of life in Switzerland by Mr. How ella and we commend it most emphatically to ever magazine reader. On the tariff Senator Edmunds hold forth defending protection against the assaults of Col. Watterson; Socialism in London is discussed by Mr. Rosny, with illustrations by Frederick Barnard; Mr. James has a story in his best manner; and Mr. Philippe Burty contributes a most valuable account of Felix Suhot, the painter-and etcher.

THE MINERS PRIMA DONNA. Musical Culture in the Black Hills - Mis

From the Omaka Herald. LEAD CITY, D. T., Jan. 16 .- This LEAD CITY, D. T., Jan. 16.—This correspondence has given some account of the literary, social, and musical culture of the dities of Deadwood and Rapid City, the two chief business centres of the Black Hills. The showing was conceded to be very creditable to towns so new and isolated. A still more remarkable record can be shown for Lead City, considering the circumstances of population and location. This is purely a mining town: its population is about 3,000, all of which is dependent on mining for support.

about 3,000, all of which is dependent on mining for support.

In vocal music it has made a record. First in the list, by unanimous consent, must be placed Miss Charity Martin. This lady was reared here, and thus far, in her character of musician, is a Black Hills product—"The Miners' Prima Donna." the admiring sponsors of her art like to term her.

Three years ago the citizens determined that she should have an education, and expected for lier a career. Accordingly a fund was raised by subscription, and she was sent to the Buston Conservatory to study. Good reports came back from her teachers, and when she returned last summer she was received with open arms by the whole camp, metaphorically and musically speaking.

last summer she was received with open arms by the whole camp, metaphorically and musically speaking.

Perhaps there could not be given a more unproudled and competent opinion of what she can do than was recently written by a Deadwood musician, after her farewell concert before returning to her Eastern studies: "She went from home with little to commend her but force and determination to make the most of herself. On her return last summer, in a concert of which she was the beneficiary, she surprised and delighted the whole community. It was conceded by all that they had never seen such a transformation. In two years she had passed from the crude and spoiled-by-praise girl of 17 to a charming young woman with a sympathetic voice of great power."

Much of the cost of this musical training of the cantarrice is paid by laborers day wages "down in the gold mines, underneath the ground, where a ray of sunshine never can be found," other than the love of art and sense of chivalry may pour into the souls of these hardy miners.

Muchief Made by a London For.

From the Times, Jan. 12.

Mischief Made by a London Fog.

From the Fines, Jan. 12.

Up to 4 o'clock yesterday the fog had continued in the metropolis for forty-eight hours, and late last night it seemed likely to prolong its stay. The inconvenience experienced by railway and street traile was very great. A Waterloo omnibus proceeding on its journey from the Strand to Camberwell gate on Tuesday night occupied flitteen minutes in getting from Wellington street, Strand, to the Surrey end of Waterloo Bridge. When on the bridge the driver could, not see the lighted lamps at either side, although the roadway is by no means wide, and it was only by carefully feeling his way that he brought the vehicle to the proper side, and avoided collisions which appeared imminent every moment. On the other bridges similar delays occurred, and matters in this respect were rather worse last night. At most of the junctions of the important streets in the metropolis great confusion, dangers, and delay were caused yesterday, from morning till night, in conducting the traffic; and pedestrians found that to cross the street was a very hazardous operation. Last night linkboys with torches and others with bull's-eye lamps were found at the corners of important suburban thoroughfares, ready to make clear the way across the roads. There were some ugly blocks during the day at Ludgate Circus, and ombuses, railway vans, carta, and cabs were, at times, pressed together in almost inextricable confusion. At Holborn Circus, at King William statue, west of Gracechurch street, and at the top of Cheapside, close to the General Post Office, similar blocks occurred. The City and metropolitan police did excellent service in regulating the traffic as far as possible, and in clearing free and safe passages for persons to cross the streets. The attendance of children at board and other schools was very small yesterday.

About 10 o'clock on Tuesday night the body

was very sunal yesterday.

About 10 o'clock on Tuesday night the body of a man, named Andgreve, was found on the railway line near Dalston Junction, N., man-About 10 octock on Tuesday night ine body of a man, named Andgreev, was found on the railway line near Dalston Junction. N., manjed almost beyond recognition by a train having passed over it. He had apparently wandered upon the line in the fog, not knowing where he was. Almost at the same time another man, named Faulkner, was discovered at London Fields Station of the Great Eastern Railway, having had both his legs shockingly mutilated by a passing train, the accident presumably being attributable to the fog. Yesterdwy afternoon the body of a man was found floating in the Regent's Canai basin, at Miliwall. He has since been identified as John Forster, aged 25, mate of a sailing vessel belonging to Guernsey, now lying in the East India dock, and it is supposed that in returning to his ship he got lost in the fog and walked over the side of the guay before he was aware of his mistake. The body of a young man has since been found in the river near the same spot, and identified as that of George Govatt, aged 16, late of 11 Reams street, Monier road, Poplar. The deceased, who was last seen on Monday night, is said to have been well acquainted with the neighborhood of the quay, and to have returned home that way, as it is a near cut. He also is believed to have accidently walked into the river during the fog. At Clanton the body of a postman named Charles Field, who had unconsciously walked into the River Lea, was recovered yesterday. A young woman named Arnold slipped off the platform at the Dalston Junction, and was struck on the side by a train, she must have been run over and killed but for the timely action of a bystander, who, at great risk to himself, jumped down and pulled her from the front of the engine. She was taken to the German Hospital and had her injuries seen to, but was, after a time, able to proceed home. One result of the fog yesterday was that several cases in the law courts had to be adjourned, owing to the non-arrival of sufters and witnesses.

QUEER WRINKLES.

Severe Discipline.

Boston Young Lady (to convict in peniteniary)-What are you reading, Man?

Convict—A volume of Onida, miss.

Boston Young Lady (shocked)—Monsters!
they really compel you to read Ouida, Man!

A Nice Little Christian

Fashionable Rector (to little girl)-So you Flossie—Yes, indeed, Mr. Whitechoker.
Rector—Do you know many of the little girls who belong to the church?
Flossie—No, sir: not very many Plossie—No. sir: not very many. I only care to know hose who alt in the middle sisle.

Familiar with the Language. Irish Woman (to Chinaman in street car)-Shove yerslif fermist the carnor wid yer blue shir-rt, and give a leddy a chonce to set down, bad cass to yez!

Chinaman-Wow!

Irish Woman-Can't yez talk English, ye yaller
thumanthinaman—if I couldn't talkes English muches bettle dd liish woman, yep, I shootes my glandmothie! A Rule that Docsn't Always Work. "Blessed are they that expect little." he said

to the convict, "for they shall not be disappointed." "Hold on there, pard. That's just where you're out. I expected little when I was up for burgiary, and got lwenly years." A Matter of Opinion.

Mr. Waldo (of Boston)—You saw "Faust." of ourse, Miss Breezy, when it was played in Chicago? Miss Breezy-Oh, yes; and was delighted with it. But I think. Mr. Waldo, speaking from a spectacular point of view, that the "Black Crook" lays a trille over it.

A Version for Boston.

Boston Mother (shocked)-I am surprised, Valdo, that you should make use of such an expression as "Let her go, Gallagher!" Waldo-What ought I to say, mamma-permit her to depart, Mr. Gallagher !

A Harsh Imputation. Wife-You say I ought to practise economy, John. Now, what did your dinner down town cost yo

to-day!
Hushand (a trifle weakly)—About three dollars.
Wife—Heavens John, three dollars just for a dinner
Hushand (a trifle indignantly)—Well, that included
bottle of wine, of course. (More indignantly)—You do s pase I would pay three dollars just for food, do you?

Let Us Hope She Didn't. They were looking out to sea.

"How fierce and turbulent the ocean is to night, feorge, dear," she said, drawing closer to him, "and how angrily it dashes up the waves against the shore."

"Ah yes, love," he genity responded, as he stole a protecting arm around the shrinking form of the timid girl, "somebody must be crossing it."

And a hook came into her fair young face as who should say, dare I intrust my future happiness to such a

A Doubting Thomas,

have for Misthress Mary O'Toolihan :
Postmaster—No. ma'am.
Applican—tiwan now: 10's not Mary O'Toolihan who
wild believe yez looked through all my thim boxes that Appropriate.

From the Chicago Tribune

"Was the deceased a man of family?" in-quired the tembrace agent, so he indee a memorandum of the design selected and wrote the inscription in his order book.

"He had been married three times," was the reply, the motte "At rest" would just fit this blank space below the inscription, "suggested the agent, deferen-tially.

Working on a Child's Feelings,

"My darling," said a fond mother who believed in appealing to children's tender feelings instead of panishing them, "If you are so manghy you will
green mamma so that she will get sick and have to lie
and the same and the same and the same and the same may die and have to be taken away out to the came
tery and be buried; and you will.—"The child had become more solemn, but an angel
mile overspread his face at his mother's last words,
and, throwing his arms about her neck, he exclaimed
"Oh, mamma! and mayn't I sit beside the coachman!"

creased, in a Sixth avenue elevated car. He seemed to be thinking very hard. There was an air of exceeding good humer about him, and he surveyed the other passengers with a fatherly, patronizing air. Then he us buttoned his overcoat and threw it back, reached into his right inside pocket, and drew out a big bundle of erters. These he arranged in rows of three on the va could see him had by this time become interested in his operations. Two stations below, the man at the other side of him got out, and then he took another bundle of letters, of size corresponding to the first, out of another pocket. The rubber band was removed from this in the same caim, deliberial manner, and he laid out the second batch of letters on the seat to his left in the same precise and careful way. Then he took up one letter after another, removed the envelope, and deliberately spread the sheet before him, and read it through slowly. The engine was puffing into the Park place station when Mr. Barnum gathered up all the letters as deliberately as he had distributed them and carefully replaced them inside the rubber bands and could see him had by this time become interested in his and carefully replaced them inside the rubber bands and back in his pockets. Then he got up, stretched his legs, buttoned up his overcoat, and remarked to the conduc-tor that it was a fine day. The conductor deferentially

INTERESTING GOSSIP OF THE DAW

Mr. P. T. Barnum sat for a minute, with his brown

tor that it was a fine day, The conductor determining admitted that it was.

"That was a big fire up at Bridgeport while ago," said Mr. Barnum.

"Yes, it was," replied the conductor.

"That Barnum's a great fellow," said Mr. Barnum; "I wonder what he is going to do now! That's an awful large amount of money for one man to lose. He had a big show, the best show I ever saw. I think it was better than ever this last eason." ter than ever this last season."

"Yes, sir, so it was!" said the conductor.
All the occupants in the first car, and some in the s ond, craned their necks to listen to the conversati "It must have been a terrible sight," continue Barnum, "to see those snakes wind themselves are lamp poets, and byenss and leopards howling are

the streets at midnight!"

"It must have been terrible!" said the conductor "Well, I understand," said Mr. Barnum, "tha Barnum has got agents out all over the world with ets lined with gold, checks, and greenbacks to pi attractions. Guess he'll have a bigger show than e
"Shouldn't wonder," assented the conductor.
"Well, this a country where enterprise and brait
recognized and paid for," said Mr. Barnum. "L

he'll succeed, dun't you!"
"Oh, yes," said the conductor, and then the
steamed into South Ferry, and Mr. Barnum, wi
rest of the passengers, walked out on the platform As Mr. Barnum moved toward the street his an broad. He had manifestly enjoyed himself.

A theatre party from the Goldey Society will w the performance of Kaie Claxton's new play, World Against Her," on Monday evening, as a c ment to Mr. Palmer Collins, one of the compar days gone by Mr. Collins taught elecution, ar loldey members were among his pupils. Mr took up the teaching of elocution in America b he thought New York society ladies had the same for reciting as their sisters in London. Three yes

he returned to the stage. While the Vale alumni were regretting the absen Mayor Hewitt from their annual banquet the Mayor dining with a friend. The real reason the Mayor di attend the dinner was because he was not invited letter to Mr. Depew, which was referred to, b read, stated that fact.

The smallest baton in existence, in all probabil the ivory wand presented by Mr. Neuendorff and orchestra to little Josef Hofmann last night at the b politan Opera House. This baton, given to Mozart honor of the first time he led an orchestra, which honor of the first time he led an erohestra, which last night, is of solid lyory, and is tipped and heade gold, appropriately inscribed. A good many people begun calling Hofmann "Mozart II." Some of the lieve he is the reincarnation of that great com Teresa Carreno, the great planiste, burst into tea first time she heard Hofmann, and declared her that he was Mozart come back to earth to finish factorily the life which went out before so distress On Thursday afternoon at the Rev. Howard Crosby

women and children belonging to the missionary sociaties of the Presbyterian churches of this city. It was their annual meeting. Mrs. Russell Sage presided, and a number of eloquent addresses were delivered. Then were no men present. Dr. John Hall's Fifth Aven Church contributed the largest total to the sum raised this way for home and foreign missions during the year -nearly \$6.000. The oratorical talents of women see to come out most strongly at church meetings, probab because the sex hasn't half as good a show at any oth kind of public assemblages. Col. Thomas W. Knox and Col. J. Aşmoy Knox and

often mistaken for each other by newspaper reader, though never by people who have seen them. Co. Thomas W. Knox is the big-bodied and big-hearted genius of the Lotos Club, famous once as a war corr spondent, and now as an author of books of travel. C manager, and a Texas sifter from away back.

-A Greek named Dimitrius Antippa has just died in Constantinople at the age of 115. He knew Robespierre and possessed several of his letters. -It is reported from Paris that an enter

-The Buffalo Courier's recent editoria discussion entitled "Buffalo Bills" has reference to measures likely to come before the Legislature, and

not to Col. Cody and his imitator -There is a strike at the Iconoclast mine New Mexico; and, by the way, that wouldn't be an it appropriate name for a Pennsylvania coal mine, since there are idle breakers at nearly all of them.

-Grocerymen are subject to a new danger It lies in canned pumpkin. One of there cans er ploded the other evening in a Norwich, Conn., store an -In 1869 Butcher Paschke began busines

in Berlin. On Dec. 2 he killed his 200,000th goose, which to suitably celebrate the occasion, was specially fa tened, and afterward eaten with great ceremony. -A correspondent in Paris writes that the average American housewife finds little pleasure i housekeeping in that city, and backs up the statemer with the fact that the paint on the woodwork would a

disappear with two or three washings. -A good woman in Deer Isle, Me., crocheted a haby's sacque for a church fair. The sacque w raffled off, and she took a share and won. She offered it to the fair again if they'd give her a chance. She was again. If the fair had kept on, she would too.

-Thomas Ford of Clifton, Staten Island, celebrated his 105th birthday on the 28th of December last. He is hale and hearty and has an excellent men ory. He is an industrious driftwood catcher, and can split up a log as quickly as most youngsters. -One of Illinois' many editors has a great

head. He is a philosopher, for he writes: "Never judge by appearances. A shabby cost may contain as editor, while a man wearing a high-toned plug hat an sporting a dude cane may be a delinquent sub-criber -A soap mine has been discovered ne Pine Ridge, Wyoming. At all events, if it isn't soap it something that resembles it very closely, being yellor in color, and capable of making a good lather and re moving grease from hands and clothing. The supp

seems to be unlimited. -John Sellers, an old farmer, near Ne Philadelphia, Ohio, who died the other day, had a markable crop of hair and a very long beard. This wa because he had never shaved or had his hair out, that ing, as he said, that it was interferring with the pro--A Hartford man started a good fire in

sheet iron stove in his office, forgot to close the draugh locked the office door and went to drive. When he g back he found the fire out; but it had made itself ! before going out. Everything in the room was scorch apples on a shelf were baked, and a dog that had be locked in was dead, evidently suffocated. -All the old hunters of Clinton county

Pa., are groaning over Prothonotary Mann of Sunbur who, they say, is a doomed man. They think so because the other day near Snow Shoe Mountain he shot a snow white deer—not a doe, to be sure, but a buck, and a big one, too. Mr. Mann laughs at the croakers, and is h ng the skin of the white deer stuffed and mounted

-It has been decided recently by Court of Common Pleas of Berks county, Pa. the a violation of the law to charge an admission camp meetings on Sunday. The case was that Applicant (to Postmaster)-Is it a letther yez Commonwealth of Pennsylvania agt. Weidner. complaint of the Rev. T. A. Fernley, and the law which the decision was made is an act of April 22

-A recent issue of a Kentucky newspin

contains a notice of the marriage of John Hanks as 50, and Sarah Follis, aged 22, together with this ap-"Our last issue contained a notice of the death's wife of John Hanks, which occurred on the 110 stant, and it was lack of enterprise on the part of News, and not on the part of, Mr. Hanks, that pri the same paper containing a notice of his marr -A young man of Indianapolis, who pro himself upon his popularity among the young he really deserves it, for he studies to please. He can

reads the society columns of the newspapers. the names of youngladies from out of town wh visiting families where he has a calling acquait When he finds such a name he goes to a new spage and looks over the exchanges to find newspa lished in the town from which the visitor c he reads up on the local news of the place. Fels fall with the names of citizens, through the nil and thus supplied with information he calls on the young woman and interests her much by his apparent families ity with what is going on at her home.